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## USDA.gov Launched Using Web Content Management

On January 14, 2005, the Department's Web site, [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov), became the first USDA site to use the enterprise Web Content Management (WCM) system, Stellent. The new WCM system provides automated mechanisms for publishing content to [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov). Web publishers and business users alike are now able to initiate automated workflow processes for content review, approval, publishing, archival, and deletion. The WCM provides online Web Content Management for content such as news releases that are created daily on the USDA Web site. There are several advantages to using a WCM system, such as easy check-in, automated workflow processes, built in versioning, and improved access to online content.

### eDeployment Changes Its Name and Adds Services

eDeployment officially changed its name to Enterprise Shared Services in the Summer of 2004. Enterprise Shared Services includes the USDA.gov, eAuthentication, AgLearn, Web Standards, Common Employee Database, and Infrastructure and Common Services (includes Web Content Management, Document/Records Management, and Portal) Teams. Enterprise Shared Services also provides a support Web site located at [www.sharedservices.usda.gov](http://www.sharedservices.usda.gov). The site is intended to provide self-service support to agencies as they begin to design and build applications on the Enterprise Shared Services architecture.

## ESS Agency Implementation Guide Now Available

USDA is transforming itself to deliver its information and services around common lines of business and customer expectations. USDA created Enterprise Shared Services (ESS), a suite of tools, standards, and business applications to facilitate this transformation. The two primary goals of ESS are 1) delivering information and services with the

customer in mind and 2) leveraging the investment in information technology to eliminate duplication.

In November 2004, the ESS Implementation Guide became available to USDA agencies and offices. This detailed document guides agencies through the steps of implementing agency business applications using USDA's Enterprise Shared Services. With this guide, agencies and offices can better understand the phases through which agencies need to progress and specific responsibilities of agencies and the ESS team throughout the project lifecycle.

## USDA Plans for HSPD-12 Compliance

The Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) was signed by President Bush on August 27, 2004 and impacts all Federal Departments. HSPD-12 was initiated to eliminate wide variations in the quality and forms of identification used to gain access to Federal systems and facilities. The main goals of this initiative include enhancing security, efficiency, reducing identity fraud, and protecting personal privacy by establishing a mandatory Government-wide standard for secure and reliable forms of identification.

By the end of June, heads of executive departments and agencies are required to have a plan in place to address the provisions identified in HSPD-12.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), in accordance with the Department of Commerce, is the lead for the development of standards for HSPD-12. These standards are titled as the Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 201. FIPS 201 will utilize Smart Card technology to provide both physical and logical access to Federal assets. By October 27, 2005 agencies will be issuing credentials according to the standards in FIPS 201.

USDA's eAuthentication, Physical Security and Cybersecurity teams formed a core HSPD-12 working group to plan and implement HSPD-12 for USDA. This team is preparing USDA for compliance with the deadlines required by HSPD-12.

NOTE: The final standard and accompanying OMB implementation guidance was published at the end of February. The USDA working group will provide these details to agencies in the near future.

## Common Employee Database Integration

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, the USDA eAuthentication Service was integrated with the new Common Employee Database (CED). The CED replaces the authoritative employee information data feeds from the National Finance Center.

This single repository of employee information supports cross-agency and role-based applications such as internal portals, shared Human Resources and other business applications, including the eAuthentication Service.

## USDA Launches “My USDA”

In September 2004, USDA launched “My USDA,” a new feature that allows individuals to customize the USDA Web site to meet their unique needs. With the use of a USDA eAuthentication userID and password, users can access the tools and up-to-date content that they choose.

My USDA, available at [www.myusda.gov](http://www.myusda.gov), is part of USDA’s effort to better respond to the needs of American agriculture and consumers. The improved capabilities help improve the public’s access to USDA information and services. There are currently approximately 11,300 MyUSDA users.

## USDA eAuthentication Service Receives Positive Program Assessment

The USDA eAuthentication Service provides centralized authentication and authorization for Web-based applications across USDA and the Federal Government. USDA employees and customers benefit from a single sign-on capability across applications and Web based services that are integrated with the eAuthentication Service across USDA and the Federal Government. This provides business value for users due to the need for a single credential to access multiple systems and for USDA by reducing identity administration.

In August 2004, Gartner, Inc., a research and analysis firm, completed an independent program assessment, also known as Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V), of USDA’s eAuthentication Service which resulted in a very positive report. The report highlighted areas where the USDA eAuthentication Service is performing well and mentioned areas where improvements can be made. Gartner reported that the business and technical architectures for authentication are in alignment with similar initiatives by other government jurisdictions. The report also concluded that the USDA eAuthentication Service supports the mission and initiatives of eGovernment at USDA and across the Federal Government.

In their IV&V assessment, Gartner concluded that the overall project is designed along industry best practices. The report indicated that in addition to well-defined employee and agency roles and responsibilities, reporting structure and resource allocation are also clearly identified. Gartner also surmised that the design of eAuthentication’s functional and application system “provides for first class technical safeguards.”

All highlighted areas for improvement are being addressed and USDA eGovernment Decision Makers and IT Leadership

will receive defined action plans detailing how improvements can be made.

## USDA Credential Users Climb

As of February 28, 2005, there have been over 76,000 total eAuthentication employee registrations.

The eAuthentication Service has also had more than 45,000 external Web users (customers) register.

## Web Team Updates USDA Style Guide

The Enterprise Shared Services Team updated the Web Style Guide to further meet user needs. The Web Style Guide provides standards for the look and feel of USDA Web sites and offers detailed information such as color palette options, font sizes, image specifications and design templates for a variety of Web pages.

The USDA Web Style Guide Version 1.1 includes additional information and examples that clarify Section 508 requirements and strengthen guideline consistency.

In addition to the Style Guide, the Enterprise Shared Services team has released a Style Guide checklist and a Photoshop Tutorial. Version 1.1 of the USDA Web Style Guide and other supporting documents are posted on [www.egov.usda.gov](http://www.egov.usda.gov).

Six agency offices have adopted the USDA Web Standards. Additionally, one cross-departmental Web site also met these Web Standards.

Below is a list of agencies and offices and their respective Web sites that have met USDA Web Standards.

Agency or Office	Web Site
FSIS	<a href="http://www.fsis.usda.gov">www.fsis.usda.gov</a>
APHIS	<a href="http://www.usda.gov/nais">www.usda.gov/nais</a>
NRCS	<a href="http://customerstatement.usda.gov">customerstatement.usda.gov</a>
ARS	<a href="http://www.nutrition.gov">www.nutrition.gov</a>
OC	<a href="http://www.usda.gov">www.usda.gov</a>
DA	<a href="http://www.usda.gov/da">www.usda.gov/da</a>
OCIO	<a href="http://www.ocio.usda.gov">www.ocio.usda.gov</a>
	<a href="http://www.aglearn.usda.gov">www.aglearn.usda.gov</a>
	<a href="http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov">www.eauth.egov.usda.gov</a>
	<a href="http://www.egov.usda.gov">www.egov.usda.gov</a>

For more information, please visit or email the Shared Services team at [www.sharedservices.usda.gov](http://www.sharedservices.usda.gov) or [SharedServices@usda.gov](mailto:SharedServices@usda.gov)

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